

## Montana Audubon

P.O. Box 595 • Helena, MT 59624 • 406-443-3949 • mtaudubon@mtaudubon.org

EXHIBIT 2.6.07
HB 439

Testimony on HB 439 House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee February 6, 2007

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Molly Immen and I'm here today representing Montana Audubon.

We think it is important that everyone who owns a private fish pond get a license. A license lets the state monitor where these ponds are located, as well as gives the Montana department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks the contact to provide educational material on the importance of a) only using fish from approved stocking facilities, and b) not to introduce exotic wildlife that may pose a threat to Montana's aquatic ecosystem.

This license is inexpensive – and it goes a long way towards allowing an important educational program to continue. Through an education program, it is MUCH easier to prevent exotic species and diseases from being introduced in this state. The alternative is to clean up problems that arise because citizens didn't know the law.

Thank You